

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A method for printing a document comprising:

using a computer, performing the following steps:

analyzing a metadata in a plurality of document pages to determine a required printer type;

separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based on the required printer type for each document page;

placing each of the plurality of document pages into an appropriate holding queue for an appropriate printer;

selecting the appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; and

printing the plurality of print jobs on a plurality of appropriate printers;

wherein when the required printer type is a specific printer, compiling all pages from the plurality of print jobs requiring the specific printer into a single print job for the specific printer.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished document.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a specific printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a the specific printer.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the specific printer is a printer containing letterhead.

5. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the specific printer is a photographic printer.
6. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a color printer holding queue;
 - and
 - wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a color printer.
7. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a black/white printer holding queue; and
 - wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a black/white printer.
8. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - comparing each print job to a printer page threshold; and
 - responsive to a determination that the number of document pages in the print job exceeds the printer page threshold, separating print job into a plurality of print jobs.
9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:
 - calculating the time until the printers are available; and
 - sending the print job to the first available printer.
10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:
 - calculating the time required for the print jobs to print; and
 - sending the print jobs to the printer with the lowest calculated time required to print the print job.
11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:
 - ranking the printers based on the time until the printers are available; and

assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

ranking the printers based on the time required for the print jobs to print; and

assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

13. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

printing a control page with each print job; and

wherein the control page contains printed instructions for reassembling the document.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate printer is determined

using a print farm profile; and wherein the print farm profile includes data regarding a number, a size, and a type for each of a plurality of print jobs in a print queue for the appropriate printer, and a printer speed and an amount of paper in a printer bin for the appropriate printer.

15. (currently amended) A program product operable on a computer, the program product comprising:

a computer-readable medium;

wherein the computer readable medium contains a first set of instructions encoded

thereon for causing the computer to perform steps comprising:

analyzing a metadata in a plurality of document pages to determine a required printer type;

separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based on the required printer type for each document page;

placing each of the plurality of document pages into an appropriate holding queue for an appropriate printer

selecting an appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; and

printing the plurality of print jobs on a plurality of appropriate printers;

wherein when the required printer type is a specific printer, compiling all pages from the plurality of print jobs requiring the specific printer into a single print job for the specific printer.

16. (previously presented) The program product of claim 15 further comprising a second set of instructions encoded thereon for causing the computer to perform the step of:

reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished document.

17. (currently amended) The program product of claim 15 further comprising:

a third set of instructions encoded thereon for causing the computer to perform the step of distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a specific printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a the specific printer.

18. (original) The program product of claim 17 wherein the specific printer is a printer containing letterhead.

19. (original) The program product of claim 17 wherein the specific printer is a photographic printer.

20. (previously presented) The program product of claim 15 further comprising:

a fourth set of instructions encoded thereon for causing the computer to perform the step of distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a color printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a color printer.

21. (previously presented) The program product of claim 15 further comprising:

a fifth set of instructions encoded thereon for causing the computer to perform the step of distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a black/white printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a black/white printer.

22. (previously presented) The program product of claim 15 further comprising:

a sixth set of instructions encoded thereon for causing the computer to perform the step of comparing each print job to a printer page threshold; and

responsive to a determination that the number of document pages in the print job exceeds the printer page threshold, instructions for separating print job into a plurality of print jobs.

23. (previously presented) The program product of claim 15 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

a seventh set of instructions encoded thereon for causing the computer to perform the steps of calculating the time until the printers are available; and

sending the print job to the first available printer.

24. (previously presented) The program product of claim 15 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

an eighth set of encoded thereon for causing the computer to perform the steps of calculating the time required for the print jobs to print; and

sending the print jobs to the printer with the lowest calculated time required to print the print job.

25. (previously presented) The program product of claim 15 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

a ninth set of instructions encoded thereon for causing the computer to perform the steps of ranking the printers based on the time until the printers are available; and

assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

26. (previously presented) The program product of claim 15 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

a tenth set of instructions encoded thereon for causing the computer to perform the steps of ranking the printers based on the time required for the print jobs to print; and

assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

27. (previously presented) The program product of claim 17 further comprising:

an eleventh set of instructions encoded thereon for causing a computer to perform the step of printing a control page with each print job; and

wherein the control page contains printed instructions for reassembling the document.

28. (currently amended) The program product of claim 17 wherein the appropriate printer is

determined using a print farm profile; and wherein the print farm profile includes data regarding a number, a size, and a type for each of a plurality of print jobs in a print queue for the appropriate printer, and a printer speed and an amount of paper in a printer bin for the appropriate printer.

29. (currently amended) A program product operable on a computer, the program product comprising:

a computer-readable medium;

wherein the computer usable medium contains a plurality of instructions encoded

thereon for causing a computer to perform steps comprising:

analyzing a metadata in a plurality of document pages to determine a required printer type;

separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based on the required printer type for each document page;

selecting an appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; and

printing the plurality of print jobs on the appropriate printers;

wherein when the required printer type is a specific printer, compiling all pages from the plurality of print jobs requiring the specific printer into a single print job for the specific printer.

30. canceled.

31. canceled.

32. (currently amended) The program product of claim ~~31~~ 29 wherein the steps further comprise:

reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished document.

33. (currently amended) The program product of claim ~~31~~ 29 wherein the steps further comprise:

distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a specific printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is ~~a~~ the specific printer.

34. (original) The program product of claim 33 wherein the specific printer is a printer containing letterhead.

35. (original) The program product of claim 33 wherein the specific printer is a photographic printer.

36. (currently amended) The program product of claim ~~34~~ 29 wherein the steps further comprise:
distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a color printer holding queue;
and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a color printer.

37. (currently amended) The program product of claim ~~34~~ 29 wherein the steps further comprise:
distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a black/white printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a black/white printer.

38. (currently amended) The program product of claim ~~34~~ 29 wherein the steps further comprise:
comparing each print job to a printer page threshold; and
responsive to a determination that the number of document pages in the print job exceeds the printer page threshold, separating print job into a plurality of print jobs.

39. (currently amended) The program product of claim ~~34~~ 29 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

calculating the time until the printers are available; and

sending the print job to the first available printer.

40. (currently amended) The program product of claim ~~34~~ 29 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

calculating the time required for the print jobs to print; and

sending the print jobs to the printer with the lowest calculated time required to print the print job.

41. (currently amended) The program product of claim ~~34~~ 29 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

ranking the printers based on the time until the printers are available; and

assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

42. (currently amended) The program product of claim ~~34~~ 29 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

ranking the printers based on the time required for the print jobs to print; and

assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

43. (currently amended) The program product of claim ~~34~~ 29 wherein the steps further comprise:

instructions for printing a control page with each print job; and

wherein the control page contains printed instructions for reassembling the document.

44. (currently amended) The program product of claim ~~34~~ 29 wherein the appropriate printer is

determined using a print farm profile; and wherein the print farm profile includes data

regarding a number, a size, and a type for each of a plurality of print jobs in a print queue for

the appropriate printer, and a printer speed and an amount of paper in a printer bin for the

appropriate printer.